

Ironworker

Ontario Ministry of Labour
Apprenticeship Training

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Brisk and continuing erection of high-rise commercial and residential buildings is creating employment opportunities for scores of skilled construction tradesmen.

Thoroughly trained ironworkers are required to place the steel for these structures. The necessary skills for this trade are acquired through a definite training program under an experienced journeyman.

Apprenticeship training in this highly technical trade is available under the modernized industrial training program being conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

During the life of the contract the apprentice works under the supervision of skilled and experienced journeymen.

Qualifications

Applicants for apprenticeship must be 17 years or over, and have a minimum of Grade 10 standing in an Ontario secondary school or an equivalent level of education. There are no maximum age limits for apprentices, but they must provide medical proof of good physical condition. They should have an interest in mathematics, metallurgy, and blueprint reading.

Duties

The experienced ironworker in Ontario is expected to perform a wide range of duties including: erection of structural ironwork; placing of reinforcing bar; installation of curtain wall and ornamental and miscellaneous ironwork and rigging; using the necessary hand tools to perform such operations as welding, flame-cutting steel, grinding and drilling; using the necessary hand instruments for lay-out and transferring lines and grades; using hoists, winches, jacks, and heavy moving equipment for the erection of steel components.

Training

The apprenticeship training program for ironworker tradesmen covers three periods of 2,000 hours each (equivalent to approximately 3 years) consisting of practical on-the-job training coupled with related instruction at a College of Applied Arts and Technology.

The related courses of instruction are compulsory and include an eight-week basic course, an intermediate course of seven weeks and seven weeks of advanced instruction near the end of the apprenticeship contract.

Because of the complexity of this trade and the fact that no contractor carries out all the phases of the apprenticeship training within his business, every apprentice is contracted to a local apprenticeship committee which assumes the responsibility of the employer.

Training Allowances

During his in-school instruction, the apprentice's tuition fees, living allowance and travel expenses are provided by the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration and the Ontario Ministry of Labour, under a shared-cost agreement.

Earning While Learning

While training on the job, apprentices earn while they learn. Their wages are based on a percentage of those paid to the journeymen in the same trade in the same shop.

During the first period they receive 60 per cent of the journeyman's rate for the first 1,000 hours and 70 per cent for the second 1,000 hours. In the second period they receive 75 per cent for the third 1,000 hours and 80 per cent for the fourth 1,000 hours. In the third period they receive 85 per cent for the fifth 1,000 hours and 90 per cent for the sixth 1,000 hours.

At the conclusion of each 2,000-period, the apprentice must receive the recommendation of the committee before proceeding to the next period of training.

Certificate of Apprenticeship

On completion of the three periods, apprentices must write a final examination. A mark of 60 per cent is required to obtain a Certificate of Apprenticeship which elevates apprentices to the status of journeymen.

Employment Prospects

Individual ability is usually the controlling factor in the advancement of qualified apprentices. The constant redevelopment of downtown areas in many major cities, introduction of industrial parks which encourage the relocation of industry to less congested areas and the large and numerous high-rise projects are providing excellent employment opportunities.

Enquiries

All enquiries concerning apprenticeship should be addressed to the Director of Industrial Training or the district offices listed on the back of this leaflet.

**District Offices
Industrial Training Branch**

Barrie 728-3727	Ottawa 731-2556
Belleville 968-8671	Owen Sound 376-5790
Brantford 756-5197	Pembroke 732-9994
Brockville 342-5033	Peterborough 743-4172
Chatham 352-2800	St. Catharines 682-4313
Cornwall 933-4260	Sarnia 337-2165
Hamilton 527-2951	Sault Ste. Marie 949-333
Kenora 468-6167	Stratford 273-1520
Kingston 542-2853	Sudbury 566-3071
Kitchener 744-5211	Thunder Bay 345-2101
London 438-2911	Toronto 965-4211
North Bay 474-5509	Windsor 256-8278



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